STAR WARS
MARVEL
010
AARON
IMMONEN
VON GRAWBADGER
PONSOR

Book II, Part III

SHOWDOWN ON THE SMUGGLER'S MOON

It is a period of renewed hope for the Rebellion. Luke Skywalker's quest to learn the ways of the Jedi brought him to the notorious Smuggler's Moon of Nar Shaddaa, where his lightsaber made him a quick target for a particularly crafty pickpocket. Soon after he found himself held prisoner by the Jedi artifact collector GRAKKUS THE HUTT.

Meanwhile, when searching the galaxy for a suitable location for the new rebel base, Princess Leia and Han Solo ran afoul of Imperial patrol ships. They took refuge on a remote planet only to find out they were not alone after all; Sana Solo – a woman who claimed to be Han's wife – made the call to turn Leia in to the Imperials.

The tables turn quickly, however, when Han reveals that he too is a rebel, and the only way Sana will get what she came for is if she saves them both....

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"HMPH. SHE MAY NOT *LOOK* LIKE MUCH OF A PRINCESS..."

...BUT SHE *SURE* SHOOTS LIKE ONE.

AND HERE I THOUGHT *ONE* SOLO WAS BAD. NOW I GET TO LISTEN TO *TWO* OF THEM. LUCKY ME.

HER NAME'S *NOT* SOLO! STOP CALLING HER THAT! SHE'S *NOT* MY--

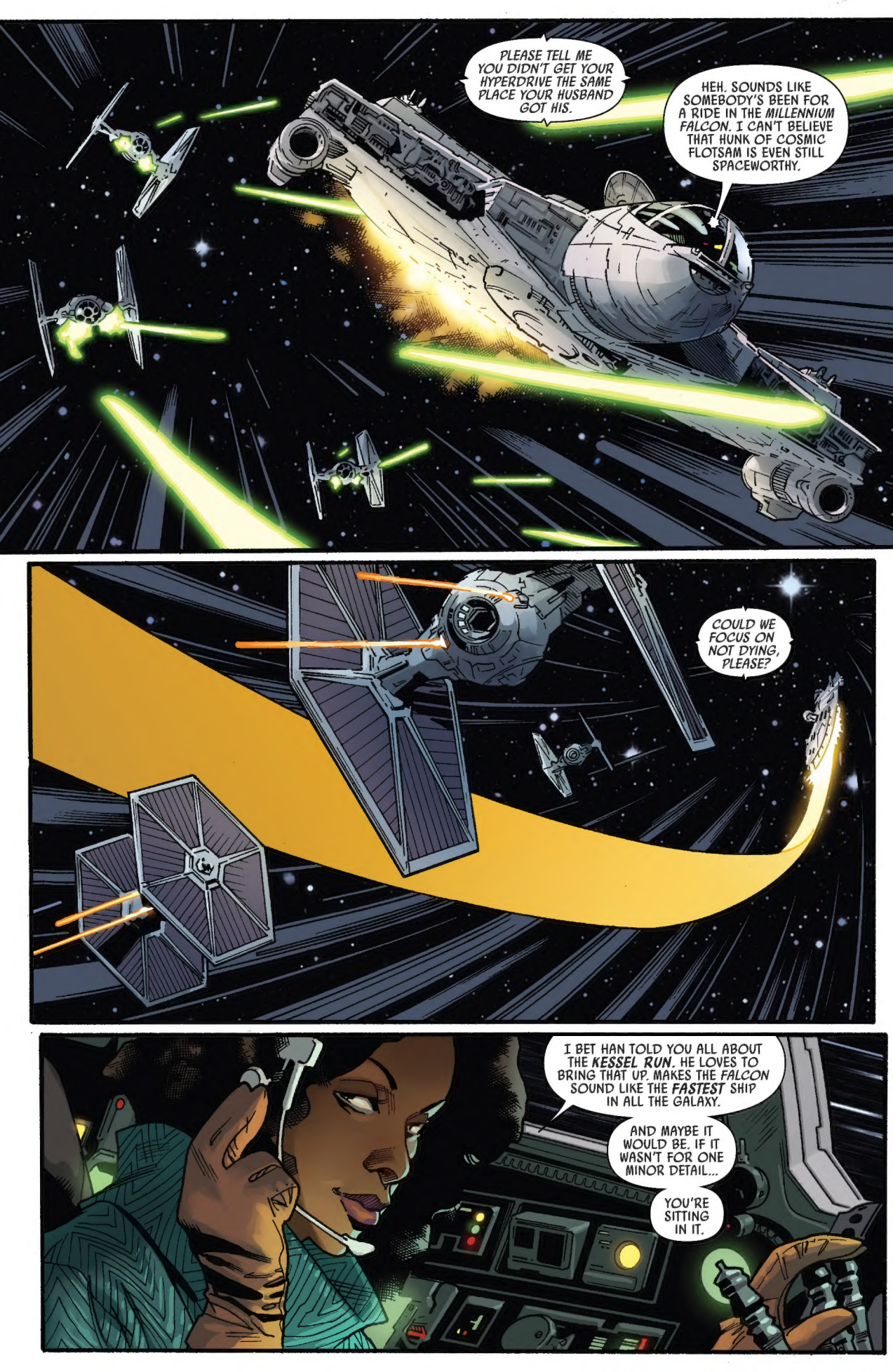
LESS YAPPING AND MORE BLASTING, HUSBAND DEAR. OR THAT *STAR DESTROYER'S* LIABLE TO RUIN OUR HAPPY REUNION.

I'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA, SANA! HOW ABOUT YOU GET US OUTTA HERE?!

WORKING ON IT.

THE NAVICOMPUTER'S STILL PLOTTING OUR FLIGHT PATH. THEN WE'LL MAKE THE JUMP TO HYPERSPACE AND--

OH, NO.


PLEASE TELL ME YOU DIDN'T GET YOUR HYPERDRIVE THE SAME PLACE YOUR HUSBAND GOT HIS.
HEH. SOUNDS LIKE SOMEBODY'S BEEN FOR A RIDE IN THE MILLENNIUM FALCON. I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT HUNK OF COSMIC FLOTSAM IS EVEN STILL SPACEWORTHY.
COULD WE FOCUS ON NOT DYING, PLEASE?
I BET HAN TOLD YOU ALL ABOUT THE KESSEL RUN. HE LOVES TO BRING THAT UP. MAKES THE FALCON SOUND LIKE THE FASTEST SHIP IN ALL THE GALAXY.
AND MAYBE IT WOULD BE. IF IT WASN'T FOR ONE MINOR DETAIL...
YOU'RE SITTING IN IT.

WELCOME TO THE VOLT COBRA.
THE SHIP HAN WISHES HE HAD.
AND SAY GOODBYE TO THE EMPIRE.

NAR SHADDAA. I MUST SAY...
IT'S EVEN MORE REVOLTING THAN I IMAGINED.
HHRWWRRRRGGH!
SAYING THAT YOU'RE MORE COMFORTABLE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS THAN IN A MEETING ROOM FULL OF PEOPLE IN UNIFORMS IS EXACTLY THE SORT OF THING THAT WORRIES ME ABOUT YOU, CHEWBACCA.
BUT GIVEN YOUR LEVEL OF COMFORT WITH SUCH LOCALES, I ASSUME YOU'LL HAVE NO PROBLEM LOCATING MASTER LUKE BY YOURSELF.
WHILE I STAY BEHIND TO WATCH THE SHIP IN CASE OF...
RRRRRRRRRRGHH!
WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING?
OH, I DON'T UNDERSTAND WOOKIEE HUMOR.
OH, DEAR.

THANK THE MAKER.
PARDON ME, MY FELLOW DROIDS. BUT I WONDER IF YOU MIGHT BE OF ASSISTANCE.
I'M SEARCHING FOR MY MASTER, WHO IS TRAVELING WITH AN R2 ASTROMECH, A THERMOCAPSULARY DEHOUSING ASSISTER WHO HAS A BIT OF A NASTY TEMPER AND...
SURE. WE'VE SEEN THEM. THEY WENT RIGHT THIS WAY. COME ON, WE'LL SHOW YOU.
OH, WHAT LUCK.
AH, THIS APPEARS TO BE A DEAD END. PERHAPS WE'VE TAKEN A WRONG TURN.
LOOKS A BIT SHODDY BUT THE JUNKERS MIGHT STILL GIVE US AN OIL BATH FOR HIM.
CUT HIS HEAD OFF SO WE DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO HIM YAMMER THE WHOLE WAY.
THESE DROIDS SEEM TO BE NOTHING MORE THAN COMMON CRIMINALS. TRUST ME, I AM AS SHOCKED AS YOU ARE.
PERHAPS WE SHOULD TRY ASKING SOMEONE ELSE?

HHHHRRRRRRGGHH!
WHU--
CHEWBACCA SEEMS TO THINK YOU LOT WILL SERVE HIS PURPOSES JUST FINE.
OH, MY. THAT'S RATHER...UNSEEMLY.
AH, TO REITERATE... WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FRIEND OF OURS.
ANY ASSISTANCE WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATED.
WWWWWWWWGGHH!

YOU MAY'VE OPENED SOME HOLOCRONS, BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE YOU A JEDI.
I NEVER SAID I WAS ONE.
YET HERE WE ARE.
SO WHAT DOES THAT MAKE YOU?
THE MAN IN CHARGE OF MAKING SURE YOU PUT ON A GOOD SHOW WHEN YOU DIE.
YOU CAN CALL ME THE GAMEMASTER. BEFORE WE'RE THROUGH, I EXPECT YOU'LL THINK OF A FEW OTHER THINGS TO CALL ME.
I WON'T FIGHT FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF SOME HUTT.
YES, YOU WILL.

BECAUSE YOU WANT TO *LEARN*.
AND I CAN TEACH YOU.
NOT WHAT I NEED TO KNOW, YOU CAN'T.
THE JEDI TEMPLE ON *CORUSCANT*...
IT DOESN'T EXIST ANYMORE.
IT'S THE *IMPERIAL PALACE* NOW.
WHATEVER YOU WERE HOPING TO FIND THERE IS GONE.
ALL THE TEMPLES ARE GONE. JUST LIKE THE JEDI THEMSELVES.
FOR ALL WE KNOW, ALL THAT'S LEFT OF THEIR ORDER IS WHAT'S LOCKED INSIDE GRAKKUS'S VAULT.
THOSE HOLOCRONS... TOGETHER THEY CONTAIN ALL THE TEACHINGS OF THE JEDI. THE ANSWER TO EVERY QUESTION YOU COULD EVER POSSIBLY ASK.
IF YOU LIVE LONG ENOUGH, JUST MAYBE YOU CAN HAVE A LOOK AT THEM.

CUFFS OFF.
CATCH.
WHAT'S TO STOP ME FROM TAKING THIS AND...
ME.
AND ALSO THEM.
WE'VE GOT A ROOM BACK THERE FILLED WITH LIGHTSABERS. BUT EVERYONE WHO EVER USED ONE IS GONE, SO THERE'S NO ONE LEFT WHO KNOWS HOW TO KEEP THEM WORKING. EVERY DAY, MORE OF THEM SHORT OUT AND BECOME USELESS.
IF YOU'RE HOPING TO SAVE WHAT'S LEFT OF THE JEDI, KID...YOU'D BETTER HURRY. LET'S SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOT.

HUGGH
CONGRATULATIONS, YOU'RE ALREADY DEAD. AND HALF THE PEOPLE HAVEN'T EVEN FOUND THEIR SEATS YET.
GET UP.
AND NEXT TIME TRY A LITTLE HARDER NOT TO DIE.

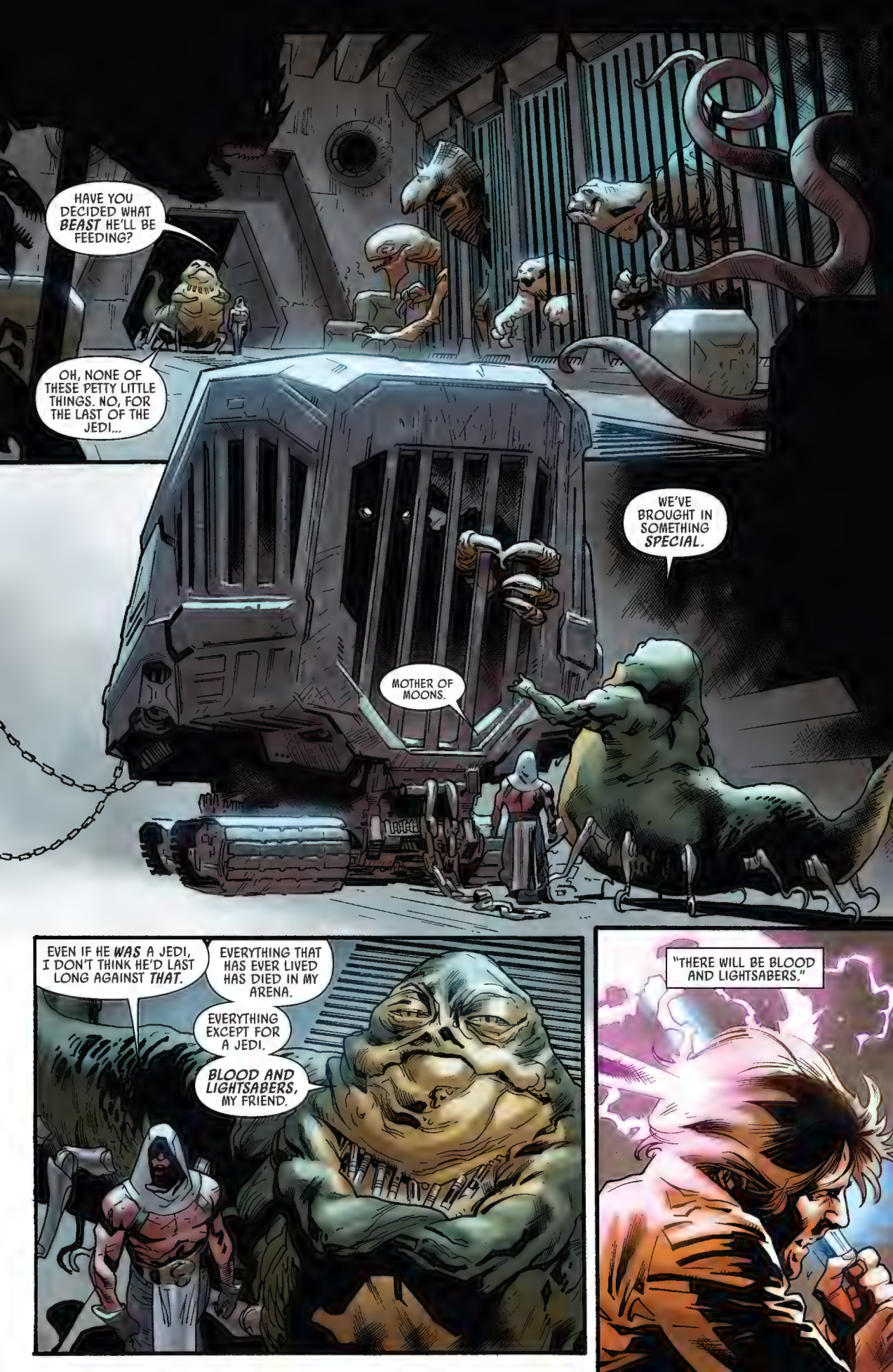
WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FRIEND OF OURS.
WE WERE TOLD HE MAY HAVE COME THIS WAY. AND THAT HE'S NOW THE PRISONER OF SOMEONE KNOWN AS GRAKKUS THE HUTT.
IF YOU COULD CONFIRM THIS INFORMATION AND THEN POINT US IN THE CORRECT DIRECTION, WE WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATIVE.
IF WE HAVE BEEN MISINFORMED, I DO APOLOGIZE. THE DROIDS WHO GAVE US THAT INFORMATION WERE RATHER...INOPERABLE AT THE TIME.
IS THAT A THREAT?
A THREAT? WHY, HEAVENS NO.
I DON'T TAKE KINDLY TO THREATS FROM DROIDS.
WE DON'T EVEN ALLOW DROIDS IN THIS BAR. AND COME TO THINK OF IT, WE AREN'T TOO FOND OF WOOKIEES, EITHER.
I UNDERSTAND. PERHAPS WE SHOULD FIND ANOTHER CANTINA TO...

WWWWRRRRRGGGHHH!

CHEWBACCA SAYS...ANYONE WHO DOESN'T WISH TO BE... PHYSICALLY INCONVENIENCED SHOULD PERHAPS FIND ANOTHER ESTABLISHMENT IN WHICH TO CONSUME THEIR BEVERAGES.
AND THEY SHOULD DO SO...WITH SOME HASTE.

I SUPPOSE THEY DIDN'T UNDERSTAND. I'LL TRY ANOTHER LANGUAGE.

AND HOW IS MY JEDI COMING ALONG?
HE MAY BE STRONG IN THE FORCE, BUT AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, ANY TRAINING HE'S RECEIVED HAS BEEN *CURSORY* AT BEST.
WE DON'T NEED HIM TO DEFEAT DARTH VADER IN SINGLE COMBAT. ONLY TO DIE WITH SOME *FLOURISH*.
HE CAN *DEFINITELY* DIE.
EXCITEMENT IS ALREADY BUILDING. EVERY CRIME LORD ON NAR SHADDAA WANTS TO SEE THE LAST STAND OF THE JEDI. I EXPECT A PACKED HOUSE. YOU WILL HAVE HIM READY.
I *ALWAYS* HAVE THEM READY.


HAVE YOU DECIDED WHAT *BEAST* HE'LL BE FEEDING?
OH, NONE OF THESE PETTY LITTLE THINGS. NO, FOR THE LAST OF THE JEDI...
WE'VE BROUGHT IN SOMETHING *SPECIAL*.
MOTHER OF MOONS.
EVEN IF HE *WAS* A JEDI, I DON'T THINK HE'D LAST LONG AGAINST *THAT*.
EVERYTHING THAT HAS EVER LIVED HAS DIED IN MY ARENA.
EVERYTHING EXCEPT FOR A JEDI.
BLOOD AND LIGHTSABERS, MY FRIEND.
"THERE WILL BE BLOOD AND LIGHTSABERS."

"HAN SOLO, THE REBEL..."
AND HERE I THOUGHT MARRYING ME WAS THE CRAZIEST THING YOU'D EVER DONE.
IF I HAD MARRIED YOU, YOU'D BE RIGHT.
NO SIGN OF THE IMPERIALS. I THINK WE LOST THEM.
OF COURSE WE DID. THERE'S A SOLO AT THE HELM. DODGING THE EMPIRE IS WHAT WE--
ENOUGH OF THIS, SANA. WHY ARE YOU HERE? WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?
SAME OLD HAN. YOU NEVER WANNA ADMIT WHEN YOU'RE CAUGHT.
WHAT'S NEXT, THE WHOLE "I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD" EXCUSE? OR ARE YOU REALLY JUST GONNA STAND THERE AND ACT LIKE OUR MARRIAGE ON STENNESS NEVER HAPPENED?
WE BOTH KNOW WHAT HAPPENED ON STENNESS AND IT CERTAINLY WASN'T A--
NAR SHADDAA.
WE HAVE TO SET COURSE FOR NAR SHADDAA.
I JUST TALKED TO THE REBEL FLEET.
LUKE'S IN TROUBLE.

TOO BAD FOR LUKE, WHOEVER THAT IS. BUT UNLIKE MY HUSBAND HERE, I HAVEN'T SUCCUMBED TO THE SEDUCTIVE WILES OF THE REBELLION.
NAR SHADDAA? WHY IS LUKE ON THE SMUGGLER'S MOON? WHAT WAS THAT KID THINKING?
WE'LL *PAY* YOU.
NO ONE'S OFFERING YOU AN INVITE INTO THE ALLIANCE. THOSE ONLY COME TO PEOPLE WHO *EARN* THEM.
BUT YOU'RE A *SMUGGLER*, AREN'T YOU? WHICH MEANS ALL YOU REALLY CARE ABOUT IS *MONEY* ANYWAY.
HEY, NOW WAIT JUST A--
I DON'T WANT YOUR *MONEY*, PRINCESS.
I JUST WANT MY *HUSBAND* BACK.
LEIA, JUST IGNORE HER AND TALK TO ME, OKAY? I REALLY THINK WE SHOULD ALL JUST STOP AND TALK ABOUT--
DEAL.
WHAT?!
AYE AYE, YOUR HIGHNESS. SETTING COURSE FOR NAR SHADDAA.

AAAAAGGHH!
I REALLY WOULD TELL HIM WHAT HE WANTS TO KNOW. HE'S QUITE UNREASONABLE WHEN HE'S LIKE THIS.
YES! GRAKKUS HAS YOUR FRIEND!
YOU CAN SEE HIS PALACE FROM HERE! IT'S TO THE EAST! JUST PAST THE SKYSLUMS!
I'M AFRAID I DON'T SEE...
TO THE EAST! EAST!
I SEE THE SKYSLUMS BUT...

HEH. YOUR FRIEND'S GONNA DIE IN THE HUTT'S ARENA.
IF YOU HURRY, MAYBE YOU CAN DIE RIGHT ALONG WITH--
AAAAAAAAAHHH!
OH, YES. THERE'S THE PALACE. I SEE IT NOW. IT DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE THAT...
WHERE'S THE BARTENDER?
WWHWWGHHH!
YOU LET HIM GO?
OH, THAT WAS VERY KIND OF YOU.

"ISA HIM. MESA KNOW IT."
MESA SEEN HIM BEFORE. MESA PALO BEAT HIM AT DEJARIK, AND WELL, WESA JUST SAY...HESA MUI REGRETTING IT EVER SINCE.
ISA CHEWBACCA, MESA SURE. AND WHERE DAREE CHEWBACCA, HAN SOLO NEVER FAR BEHINDING.
JABBA STILL OFFER BOMBAD BOUNTY, YESA? MESA JUST FIGURED...MAN IN YOUS LINE OF WORKING MIGHT BE MUI GRATEFUL TO WHOSAEVER BRINGING DISA INFORMATION. OKEEDAY?
OH I'M GRATEFUL, ALL RIGHT.
THIS IS MY GRATEFUL FACE.
NOW WHERE DID YOU SAY YOU SAW THIS WOOKIEE?

STAR WORDS

Write us at StarWars@Marvel.com if you want to make it into a future letters page. Don't forget to mark the letter "OK TO PRINT."

Salutations, fellow rebels!

Assistant Editor Heather Antos here once again manning the rebel transmission! It doesn't look like the Imperials have caught up with us yet, so since we have some downtime, let's talk *Star Wars* comics!

Dear *Star Wars* Team,

Y'all are doing a full moon amazing job! I remembered when my comic bookstore suggested that I try out your series when it first came out, and needless to say I am so glad I did! I love the stories and all of the twists and turns that leave me begging for more. Just finished reading *Star Wars* #8 and it was great! I'm not sure if I am right, but was that Cad Bane who took Luke's lightsaber? If it isn't, would he be a character you might bring in? Looking forward to finding out!

May the Force be with you,
Andrew Tucker

Hi Andrew! The sneaky thief in issue 8 was not Cad Bane. But how cool would that be if he made an appearance some time? You never know who might show up in the comics!

Hello!

I just read issue 8 and wow, this story has been really cool. Boba Fett and Luke, Vader and Jabba, Han, Leia and...Han's wife?! I can't imagine anyone saw that coming. My favorite part of the series so far is Ben's journal and learning about what Obi-Wan did after the Clone Wars. I hope Luke will continue reading Ben's journal once he gets his saber back! ...and is he really planning to break into the old Jedi temple on Coruscant? That sounds like a death wish! Can't wait to find out!

Bradley Phillips

It certainly does seem like a bit of a death wish now, doesn't it? And Luke hasn't even made it to Coruscant yet! I wonder how he's going to get himself out of this mess...

Hey *Star Wars* team!

I just finished reading *Star Wars* #8 and I am loving what you guys are doing! As I was picking up my pull from the local comic shop I found myself thinking, "Wouldn't it be great if they made a *Star Wars: Droids* comic?!" As I was reading the Star Words at the back of issue 8 I noticed I'm not the only one! This would be AMAZING! You could have some great appearances from IG-88 or everyone's favorite bad motivator R5-D4! Maybe even Chopper! Here's hoping you make a nerd's wish come true!

With nerd love,
Josh Spearow

A droids-only book certainly sounds like it would be a lot of fun – they're definitely amongst my favorite characters. Just think of the wide range it could have – from BT-1 and 000 in the Darth Vader comic all the way to the gonk droids from the classic trilogy! The adventures would never end!

Editors from far, far away,

Is the run of *Star Wars* books just going to bridge the gap between *A New Hope* and *Empire Strikes Back*? Or are we going to see a series showing us the story between *Empire* and *Return of the Jedi*? Keep up the good work by introducing us to characters like Sana Solo and Aphra as well!

Austin Erickson

Currently our books are in a couple of different timelines – For instance, issue #7 of *Star Wars* took place in-between Episodes III and IV, *Kanan* takes place both after Episodes II and III, and the upcoming *Shattered Empire* takes place post-Episode VI. We've got a lot more comics on the way covering a lot of different stories! Who knows when our next story might take place?

Dear *Star Wars* Team,

Star Wars #8, man, Cassaday is a hard act to follow, but Immonen takes up the challenge and runs with it. That was some fantastic art, from the opening sprawl shot of the Imperial Destroyer looming over the planet to the frantic bar scenes on Nar Shaddaa (the last shot of Luke leaping over some poor sod in the maddening crowd chasing after his stolen lightsaber is about picture perfect).

As you would expect lately, Aaron nails the banter between Han and Leia (one can almost hear Fisher and Ford speaking these lines). As a longtime EU novel reader, the appearance of Sana Solo was quite the shock but a very welcome one. I'm glad that you all waited that long to introduce a major original character; seeing her interactions here just whets my appetite to learn more of her. Han's continuing denial to Leia that Sana isn't his wife. Hm, could that be true?

Brent Clayton

Thanks for reading, Brent! Yes, Cassaday is certainly a tough act to follow but Stuart's art on these issues of *Star Wars* has been a real treat! Just wait until you see what he's got up his sleeve for next issue! And we're so glad to hear that fans are really enjoying Sana's appearance in the story. She's a favorite of ours and we can't wait for everyone to learn more about her!

That's all for this transmission! Be sure to pick up next month's issue to learn more about that bounty hunter on that last page. Surely it's not the infamous Dengar...is it? Uh-oh...

"After all, he's only a Wookiee."

Heather Antos

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